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JOHNSTON LETTER.

Banquet by Knights of Pythias. Two Sad Deaths. Mrs. Boatwright Entertained Pi Tau Club.

An occasion that had been pleasantly anticipated, took place on the evening of the 8th, in the opera house, when the Knights of Pythias gave their annual banquet and to this was invited many friends. After an hour socially, all were seated at the banquet table, covers being laid for about 200. The table was in the shape of a Greek cross, in the center of which was a pyramid of ferns and blooming flowers, and at the four points of the table, were smaller arrangements of flowers, and arranged artistically about were tropical fruits. The whole table was outlined in a tracery of green foliage. After all had enjoyed the feast, so bountifully served. Mayor W. C. Derrick, toastmaster, called for toasts, and the speakers in their remarks, were bright and witty, deep and thoughtful and loud applause was given each as they concluded. Dr. A. T. King was called upon to respond to the toast, "Civic pride," Rev. M. L. Kester, responded to the toast, "Humor," Prof. W. F. Scott had as his subject "Yesterday, to-day and tomorrow," Mr. S. J. Watson responded to the toast, "The fair sex," Rev. G. C. Hutchinson spoke upon "The fraternity," Mr. Joe W. Cox was called upon, who stated his subject as "The summary."

Miss Maud Johnson died here Thursday evening at the home of her mother, Mrs. Annie Johnson. Her death is a most deplorable one, for she was a young woman of about 19 years and was bright and of a sunny disposition. She had completed a business course and entered upon her work when she was stricken with pellagra, which occasioned her death. About a year ago, her father, Mr. James Johnson, succumbed to this malady. She was a member of the Baptist church. The funeral services were conducted on Friday at 3 o'clock at Philippi by Dr. A. T. King, and the burial was made in the burying ground nearby.

A death that brought sadness to our town was that of Mrs. Annie Clark Rhoden, the wife of Mr. Hansford Rhoden, which occurred here last Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, after an illness of typhoid fever. For some time she had been in delicate health, an operation being necessary last summer, from which she was never again strong. Her loved ones did everything for her restoration, but to no avail. She was a Christian woman of many noble traits, being a member of the Baptist church. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Clark, and besides the husband are left three brothers Messrs. James, William and Henry Clark, of Aiken, and a sister, Mrs. Eugene Kneese, of Monetta. The two little children, Marion and Janie, have been taken by their grand mother, Mrs. Clark in whose home they will find love akin to that of the mother. At the time of her death, her husband's mother, Mrs. Arthur Rhoden, was too critically ill to be told of the sadness. The funeral was conducted at Philippi by her pastor, Dr. A. T. King, after which the casket covered with many beautiful flowers, was laid to rest in the family burial ground.

The death of Mrs. Ed Penn which occurred in Columbia last Wednesday was learned here with sorrow. This family made their home here for a number of years, moving to Columbia about 4 years ago. The cause of her death was pneumonia. The body passed through here on Thursday morning and Mr. Penn was joined by Mr. J. C. Lewis, who went to act as one of the pall bearers, the interment taking place at McCormick.

Mrs. B. T. Boatwright entertained the members of the Pi Tau club and several other guests on Wednesday at her country place, Cedar Grove, with a spend-the-day party. Among the invited guests were Messdames James Cullum and Mrs. W. E. LaGrone, two recent brides. A several course dinner was served and the festive board was beautiful to look upon. Red carnations were at each cover, and tiny red cupid and hearts about over the table hap-

pily suggested Valentine's day. The place cards were attached to red ribbons, which passed to a heart shaped basket in the center of the table, and each one drew forth a silver thimble, with the name engraved upon it. From this basket stood a large vase of spicy red carnations. Only the lengthening shadows of the day caused this merry band to bid adieu.

Miss Mallie Waters spent a few days of last week in Augusta with friends.

Miss Maria English of Columbia has been the guest of Miss Sara Beaks.

Mrs. J. W. Mobley spent last week in Edgefield with her mother, Mrs. John Hill.

Miss Bertha Stahn of Chester is the guest of Mrs. F. M. Boyd.

Miss Lylie LaGrone has gone to Darlington where she will visit in the home of Mr. Arthur Welling.

Mr. and Mrs. Pearce Stevens were guests recently of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Carson at Batesburg.

Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Allen visited at the home of Mrs. Willie Tompkins during the past week.

News From Philippi Section.

Philippi one of the oldest Baptist churches in this part of the state will be one hundred years old the twenty-sixth of this month. We are going to celebrate the centennial some time later. Dr. J. C. Browne of Aiken has been the pastor nearly one-third of this time. He resigned last year on account of his health. Dr. A. T. King of Johnston preaches for us every 2nd and 4th Sunday p. m. at three o'clock.

Miss Lizzie Morgan of Edgefield is visiting her sister, Mrs. L. D. Holmes.

Miss Lottie Derrick spent last Tuesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Scott.

Miss Artelia Posey is visiting friends in Johnston.

The sympathy of this community goes out to Mrs. J. O. Herin in the death of her father, Mr. J. T. Ouzts.

Miss Letha Jackson who is now working in Edgefield was at home Sunday.

Misses Maggie Shaffer and Marie Scott spent Saturday night with Miss Nellie Scott.

The death of Mrs. Annie Rhoden which occurred at her home in Johnston on Wednesday of last week filled this community with sadness. Her body was laid to rest in the Philippi cemetery Thursday.

Miss Maud Johnson, of Johnston, was buried at Philippi Friday.

Total Church Enrolment 37,280,000.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Actual enrolled membership of Christian churches in the United States showed a net increase of 618,000 or 1.8 per cent during 1913, according to statistics published to-day by the Washington office of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. The Methodist church led in the increased membership with 220,000. The other churches in their order follow: Baptist 64,600; Presbyterian, 55,000; Lutheran, 36,100; Disciples, 24,800; and Episcopal 16,500.

The actual membership of the largest churches in the United States are given as follows: Roman Catholic, 13,099,534; Methodist, 7,125,069; Baptist 5,924,622; Lutheran, 2,338,722; Presbyterian, 2,027,593; Disciples of Christ 1,519,369; Protestant Episcopal, 997,407; and Congregational, 748,340. These eight churches contain 34,000,000 of the 37,280,000 of actual church membership in the United States.

Horrible Blotches of Eczema.

Quickly cured by Dr. Hobson's eczema ointment. CP Caldwell, of New Orleans, La., states: "My doctor advised me to try Dr. Hobson's eczema salve. I used three boxes of ointment and three cakes of Dr. Hobson's Derma Zema soap. Today I have not a spot anywhere on my body and can say I am cured." It will do the same for you. It is soothing, healing, antiseptic action will rid you of all skin humors, blackheads, pimples, eczema blotches, red unsightly sores, and leaves your skin clean and healthy. Get a box to-day. Guaranteed. All druggists, 50c or by mail. Pfeiffer Chemical Co. Philadelphia or St. Louis.



Mr. James Tolbert Ouzts.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

Interesting Sketch of the Life of an Honored Citizen.

A little after the middle of the 18th century Dieterig Uzt with his family left the land of his nativity on the river Rhine to seek his fortune in America. [About 1800 the German "Uzt" was anglicized by the prefix "O" and the suffix "S."] In a few years after his arrival the war with the mother country was on hand and Peter, one of the sons, enlisted with the American forces and served seven years apprenticeship in practical military science on many fields of battle and received several wounds as souvenirs of his escapade. After the cessation of hostilities and the colonies became independent Peter settled on a grant of land about 1 1/2 miles east of McKendree, known to this day as the "old place." He built his house upon a slaty hill overlooking a branch and set himself about to carve a field of the forest. He married Miss Elizabeth Harling and raised a large family of children. Of these twelve sons and one daughter reared large families and with one exception lived to become old. Among the sons there was an Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Isaac married Miss Mary Steifer of Abbeville district, settled on the Long cane road, hard-by the "old place" and was the father of the subject of this sketch and also two of his sisters, Mrs. Laviey Dorn of McKendree and Mrs. J. L. McDowell of Greenwood, who are still living.

James Tolbert Ouzts was born Dec. 30, 1833. He grew to manhood on his father's farm doing such work in field and forest as his strength permitted. He received only a limited education, for in those days opportunities for education were not throwing around as now. His only school advantages were had at what was termed the "old field school." His industrial training and that old time home training, which so many of the youths of this day sadly need, was of the best, for his life exemplified the scripture, "train up a child in the way he shall go and when he is old he will not depart therefrom."

On the 13th of May 1856 he married Miss Amina Frances Lowery who survives him and from this union there came nine children in the order following: Dr. W. D. Ouzts, Mrs. Carrie Adams, Andrew Davis Ouzts, Mrs. J. O. Herin, A. G. Ouzts, Mrs. W. H. Harling, Mrs. J. M. Shafer, Miss Flora A. Ouzts and Mrs. G. T. Asbell. Of the children all are living except Andrew Davis who died in infancy forty-two years ago.

Mr. Ouzts began life as a small farmer, but as time passed success crowned his efforts. In the early seventies he began a country mercantile business at Elmwood in connection with his farming interest. He accumulated property and at one time owned a considerable landed estate, but over confidence in the underserving caused him financial losses. No reverses, however, shook

his integrity. He paid one hundred cents on the dollar for every bill of goods that came to his store; he paid one hundred cents on the dollar for every financial obligation he ever made. A distinguished writer of the 18th century has said: "An honest man is the noblest work of God."

In 1891 Mr. Ouzts suffered a protracted spell of typhoid fever and was confined to the house for a period of four months. From this he never regained his former spirit. Under the advice of his physician and a realization of the fact that he could no longer grapple with business difficulties and the annoyance of negro tenants he disposed of most of his lands, ran only a small store, farmed and gardened in a small way as a pastime, and lived a quiet life.

After the death of Col. S. W. Nicholson in 1893 he was appointed Post Master of Elmwood which position he held nearly 20 years and then he resigned. He was 40 years ahead of the good roads movement. He accepted the overseership of the section of road that passed through his farm as a matter of pride in good roads and held it for many years. His section of road was favorably commented upon by all who traveled it. And had all others imbibed the same spirit at that time our roads are this would have been models. He never aspired to political office, though he was patriotic and public spirited to a degree that few excelled.

He was a martyr to neuralgia all of his long life, and but few, save his physicians and immediate family, ever knew the sufferings entailed upon him by a predisposition inherited from his mother. In the war between the states his services couldn't be accepted on account of physical disability. He however, gave an only brother, Andrew Jackson Ouzts, whose young life was sacrificed on the altar of the Confederacy in the Seven Days Battle before Richmond, 1862. He fell in a few feet of the battery his regiment was charging at Gaires' Mill and which was immediately captured. He was ever and always loyal to the democratic party, and in 1876 contributed his share toward the overthrow of radicalism and the success of Gary, Butler and Hampton.

In religion he was a Methodist; we might appropriately say, born a Methodist, as he was reared by Methodist parents and joined the McKendree Methodist church very early in life. Before the infirmities of age crept upon him he took an active interest in church affairs, and was for many years Sunday school superintendent and steward in the McKendree Methodist church. It is superfluous to say, he was an important pillar in this branch of the Methodist church, for with his loyalty to its doctrines, his christian life, and the generous financial support he gave it he couldn't have

been otherwise. In his relations with others he was always affable, modest and unassuming, yet impressive. He was generous and hospitable. To the stranger he was kind and his door was always open to the wayfarer.

In his family relations he was exceptional. In truth, he was an affectionate and devoted husband; for his children no man ever possessed a greater love. And like unto his saintly mother, he had an especial fondness for all children; and many a child in years to come will bless his memory for the many little kindnesses and attentions he gave them. Illustrative of the Bible truth, death came like a thief in the night, but he was ready—his light was burning. He retired Monday night Jan 26 in usual health; was seized with a severe attack of acute indigestion shortly afterward, and ere noon the following day he had passed quietly and peacefully away, and thus his tranquil death simulated his character in life.

His sudden death was a severe shock to the entire community and cast a gloom of profound sadness over all. Only 28 days previous, Dec. 20th, his children had gathered at the old homestead to celebrate his 80th birthday and pay loving tribute to their aged parents.

On Wednesday, a day which God and nature rendered ideal, and seemed to have made propitious for this sad occasion, in the afternoon, the funeral services were held at old McKendree where he had worshipped all these many years. The Rev. Earl Steadman assisted by the Rev. J. R. Walker officiated. As the sun, which had shown brightly all day, was declining behind the trees the remains were lowered into the vault, witnessed by, perhaps, the largest gathering that ever attended a funeral at McKendree.

From an appreciated letter of condolence received from an old friend and whose estimate of Mr. Ouzts would be endorsed by all who knew him, we quote the following: "I have known Mr. Ouzts many, many, years. Words are too cheap and common place for me to give expression to the high regard in which I held him. His tranquil life was an inspiration to me, and many others as well. He lived a long and useful life, and kept the faith until death kissed down his eyelids; then met his pilot in the crossing. With him the warfare is over, the victory won, and he is blessed. Mr. Ouzts' convictions upon the high standard of truth, honesty, and virtue. It can be well and truthfully said of him; his life is an open book of untarnished pages. He not only played long at the game of life, but he played fair."

The mind can scarcely grasp the depth of meaning in the figure, "he played fair." Classic literature has never bequeathed the English language a sentence in which virtue in human character could be more truthfully expressed.

Alas! "lives fitful fever is over," a good man gone to his reward. He has crossed "over the river" and rests "under the shade of the trees." And, why should we mourn, when he had walked, with much suffering, the rugged paths and slippery places in a cold and uncharitable world so long? He has left us rich in a noble heritage, and an exemplary life. And in after years his children's children may turn the leaves of his book and find encouragement and inspiration. "He played fair."

W. D. O.

The Sacred Concert.

To-morrow, Thursday, evening, commencing at 8:15, the ladies of the Presbyterian church will give a sacred concert in their church. A very attractive musical programme, consisting of solos, duets and choruses, has been arranged. In addition to the best local talent, Miss Battle of Augusta will sing several solos. The people of Edgefield have heard this sweet singer before and were charmed with her voice. Considering the attractiveness of the programme and the worthiness of the cause, we do not believe the people of Edgefield will have to be urged to attend the concert Thursday evening. No collection will be taken but a voluntary silver offering will be made at the door.

Sunday School Convention at Harmony.

One of the most interesting and helpful conventions the writer has ever attended was the one at Harmony on Thursday of last week, when the district convention met and proved the valuable assistance and inspiration that these district meetings can be to the Sunday school work at large.

The environment of a family or community has a great deal to do with impressions, and "first impressions are most lasting," so that leaving Edgefield on such a beautiful morning as last Thursday proved to be, with the pleasantest of companions, gave the first pleasant impression to a whole day of profit and enjoyment.

It was regretted that we did not arrive in time to participate in the devotional exercises or to hear the welcome address by Mr. G. M. Smith, nor the response by Dr. Jeffries, but we were assured that each one was worthy of the good things that we did hear and see. On the platform were two of Edgefield county's most active and efficient Sunday school workers. Mr. L. G. Watson is secretary of the Interdenominational Sunday school convention and Mr. W. B. Cogburn was elected president of the district convention, and Mr. Cogburn presided throughout the session. Mr. L. G. Watson discussed the objects and aims of the district convention, which we did not hear, but feel sure that his enthusiasm in the Sunday school work made his exposition of that subject very convincing to the audience.

"The main defects in our Sunday schools and how to remedy them." This subject had been assigned Mr. Cogburn and Rev. P. B. Latham, but the former as president took the liberty of substituting for his name that of Dr. A. T. King of Johnston, who made a very interesting and prompt talk. Rev. P. B. Latham was absent, and Rev. Mr. Kester of the Johnston Lutheran church also spoke on this important topic.

One of the most delightful features of the program was the report of the World's Sunday school convention when Mr. Walker gave a running account of the convention at Zurich, Switzerland, when he and Mrs. Walker were among the twelve hundred delegates from the United States. This was very inspiring.

At this time it was announced that the far-famed hospitality of Harmony would be further dispensed around the dinner table under the trees, which the beautiful day made possible. But if it had been an inclement day the Harmony church would not have been embarrassed, for in their beautiful and commodious church there was room and provision for every emergency. Everybody expected a splendid dinner and they were not disappointed. The writer is a true American in one sense if no other, and that is that pie is a favorite article of diet and these have been tested on many occasions, but none have ever surpassed the coconut pies at Harmony.

Immediately after the recess, and the people had repaired to the beautiful church again, and willingly, for they knew good things were still in store for them, the subject, "How may we promote the cause of temperance in the Sunday school?" was the first topic. This was discussed in a very interesting and intelligent way by Rev. G. C. Hutchinson the Methodist minister of Johnston. Those of us who had not met Mr. Hutchinson were glad of this opportunity to welcome him to our county, and also pleased that he is such an enthusiastic apostle of temperance.

Following this was a very well prepared and beautifully read article presented by Mrs. L. G. Watson on the cradle roll department of the Sunday school. Mrs. J. H. White of Johnston also discussed this department and gave an account of her own cradle roll work at Johnston which is after all the best way to present these subjects, for they are practically demonstrated, and those individuals in the audience who are interested will have some information upon which they can begin work in their own schools.

Mrs. Mamie N. Tillman presented the subject of the primary department, and also gave the audience the benefit of her own practice.